S-4187.2		

## SENATE BILL 6647

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senator Fairley

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Read first time 01/18/2006. Referred to Committee on Financial Institutions, Housing & Consumer Protection.

- AN ACT Relating to manufactured/mobile homes; amending RCW 59.20.250; reenacting and amending RCW 42.17.310; adding a new section to chapter 42.56 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 59 RCW; providing an effective date; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.
- 6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context requires otherwise.
  - (1) "Department" means the department of community, trade, and economic development.
- 11 (2) "Director" means the director of the department of community, 12 trade, and economic development.
- (3) "Mobile home park" or "manufactured housing community" means any real property that is rented or held out for rent to others for the placement of two or more mobile homes, manufactured homes, park models, or recreational vehicles for the primary purpose of production of income, except when the real property is rented or held out for rent for seasonal recreational purposes only and is not used for year-round occupancy.

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- 1 (4) "Landlord" or "park owner" means the owner of a mobile home 2 park or a manufactured housing community and includes the agents of the 3 landlord.
- (5) "Mobile home lot" means a portion of a mobile home park or manufactured housing community designated as the location of one mobile home, manufactured home, or park model and its accessory buildings, and intended for the exclusive use as a primary residence by the occupants of that mobile home, manufactured home, or park model.
- 9 (6) "Tenant" or "homeowner" means any person, except a transient, 10 who rents or occupies a mobile home lot.
- 11 (7) "Owner" means one or more persons, jointly or severally, in whom is vested:
  - (a) All or part of the legal title to the real property; or
- 14 (b) All or part of the beneficial ownership, and a right to present 15 use and enjoyment of the real property.
- 16 (8) "Park model" means a recreational vehicle intended for 17 permanent or semipermanent installation and is used as a primary 18 residence.
- 19 (9) "Recreational vehicle" means a travel trailer, motor home, 20 truck camper, or camping trailer that is primarily used as a primary 21 residence located in a mobile home park or manufactured housing 22 community.
- 23 (10) "Unfair practice" means any act that would constitute an 24 unfair or deceptive act or practice under chapter 19.86 RCW.
- 25 (11) "Complainant" means a landlord, park owner, tenant, or 26 homeowner, who has a complaint alleging an unfair practice or violation 27 of chapter 59.20 RCW.
- 28 (12) "Respondent" means a landlord, park owner, tenant, or 29 homeowner, alleged to have committed an unfair practice or violation of 30 chapter 59.20 RCW.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. Landlords and park owners may participate in voluntary training offered by the department. The department is required to develop and implement a voluntary training program for landlords and park owners that must include at a minimum: Information on the applicable state statutes and regulations relating to mobile homes and manufactured communities, as well as information on

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- 1 developing and improving basic communication and dispute resolution
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- NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The department must continually maintain and update a data base, in which the following information is contained at a minimum:
  - (1) The number of complaints received;
- 7 (2) The nature and extent of the complaints received; and
- 8 (3) Complaint investigation outcomes.
- 9 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 4.** The director or individuals acting on the director's behalf are immune from suit in any action, civil or criminal, based upon any disciplinary actions or other official acts performed in the course of their duties under this chapter, except their intentional or willful misconduct.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. (1) In order to provide general assistance to mobile home resident organizations, park owners, landlords, and tenants, the department shall establish an office of manufactured housing to serve as the coordinating office within state government for matters relating to mobile homes or manufactured housing.
  - This office shall provide an ombudsman service to mobile home park owners and mobile home tenants with respect to problems and disputes between park owners and park residents and provide technical assistance to resident organizations or persons in the process of forming a resident organization under chapter 59.22 RCW. The office shall keep records of its activities in this area.
  - (2) The office shall perform all the consumer complaint and related functions of the state administrative agency that are required for purposes of complying with this chapter and the regulations established by the federal department of housing and urban development for manufactured housing, including the preparation and submission of the state administrative plan.
- 31 (3) The office shall administer the mobile home relocation 32 assistance program established in chapter 59.21 RCW, including 33 verifying the eligibility of tenants for relocation assistance.

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- 1 **Sec. 6.** RCW 59.20.250 and 1984 c 58 s 12 are each amended to read 2 as follows:
- 3 <u>(1)</u> The landlord and tenant may agree in writing to submit any dispute arising under this chapter or under the terms, conditions, or
- 5 performance of the rental agreement to mediation by ((an independent))
- 6 <u>a mediator, who is: (a) With a dispute resolution center under chapter</u>
- 7 7.75 RCW; or (b) a neutral third party ((or to settle the dispute
- 8 through industry mediation procedures)) approved by the department.
- 9 The parties may agree to submit any dispute to mediation before 10 exercising their right to arbitration under RCW 59.20.260.
- 11 (2) For the purposes of this section, "mediator" means an 12 individual who conducts a mediation.
- 13 (3) For the purposes of this section, "mediation" means a process
- 14 <u>in which a mediator facilitates communication and negotiation between</u>
- 15 parties to assist them in reaching a voluntary agreement regarding
- 16 their dispute.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. A new section is added to chapter 42.56 RCW to read as follows:
- 19 The following personal information is exempt from public inspection
- 20 and copying under this chapter: All office records and files collected
- 21 by the office of manufactured housing within the department of
- 22 community, trade, and economic development, pursuant to the office of
- 23 manufactured housing's ombudsman complaint resolution program under
- 24 chapter 59.-- RCW (sections 1 through 5 of this act) and RCW 59.20.250,
- 25 which contain identifying or personal information about the complainant
- or the respondent.

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- 27 **Sec. 8.** RCW 42.17.310 and 2005 c 424 s 16, 2005 c 349 s 1, 2005 c 28 312 s 6, 2005 c 284 s 1, 2005 c 172 s 13, and 2005 c 33 s 4 are each
- 29 reenacted and amended to read as follows:
  - (1) The following are exempt from public inspection and copying:
- 31 (a) Personal information in any files maintained for students in
- 32 public schools, patients or clients of public institutions or public
- 33 health agencies, or welfare recipients.
- 34 (b) Personal information in files maintained for employees,
- 35 appointees, or elected officials of any public agency to the extent
- 36 that disclosure would violate their right to privacy.

(c) Information required of any taxpayer in connection with the assessment or collection of any tax if the disclosure of the information to other persons would (i) be prohibited to such persons by RCW 84.08.210, 82.32.330, 84.40.020, or 84.40.340 or (ii) violate the taxpayer's right to privacy or result in unfair competitive disadvantage to the taxpayer.

- (d) Specific intelligence information and specific investigative records compiled by investigative, law enforcement, and penology agencies, and state agencies vested with the responsibility to discipline members of any profession, the nondisclosure of which is essential to effective law enforcement or for the protection of any person's right to privacy.
- (e) Information revealing the identity of persons who are witnesses to or victims of crime or who file complaints with investigative, law enforcement, or penology agencies, other than the public disclosure commission, if disclosure would endanger any person's life, physical safety, or property. If at the time a complaint is filed the complainant, victim or witness indicates a desire for disclosure or nondisclosure, such desire shall govern. However, all complaints filed with the public disclosure commission about any elected official or candidate for public office must be made in writing and signed by the complainant under oath.
- (f) Test questions, scoring keys, and other examination data used to administer a license, employment, or academic examination.
- (g) Except as provided by chapter 8.26 RCW, the contents of real estate appraisals, made for or by any agency relative to the acquisition or sale of property, until the project or prospective sale is abandoned or until such time as all of the property has been acquired or the property to which the sale appraisal relates is sold, but in no event shall disclosure be denied for more than three years after the appraisal.
- (h) Valuable formulae, designs, drawings, computer source code or object code, and research data obtained by any agency within five years of the request for disclosure when disclosure would produce private gain and public loss.
- (i) Preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, and intra-agency memorandums in which opinions are expressed or policies formulated or

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recommended except that a specific record shall not be exempt when publicly cited by an agency in connection with any agency action.

- (j) Records which are relevant to a controversy to which an agency is a party but which records would not be available to another party under the rules of pretrial discovery for causes pending in the superior courts.
- (k) Records, maps, or other information identifying the location of archaeological sites in order to avoid the looting or depredation of such sites.
- (1) Any library record, the primary purpose of which is to maintain control of library materials, or to gain access to information, which discloses or could be used to disclose the identity of a library user.
- (m) Financial information supplied by or on behalf of a person, firm, or corporation for the purpose of qualifying to submit a bid or proposal for (i) a ferry system construction or repair contract as required by RCW 47.60.680 through 47.60.750 or (ii) highway construction or improvement as required by RCW 47.28.070.
- (n) Railroad company contracts filed prior to July 28, 1991, with the utilities and transportation commission under RCW 81.34.070, except that the summaries of the contracts are open to public inspection and copying as otherwise provided by this chapter.
- (o) Financial and commercial information and records supplied by private persons pertaining to export services provided pursuant to chapter 43.163 RCW and chapter 53.31 RCW, and by persons pertaining to export projects pursuant to RCW 43.23.035.
- (p) Financial disclosures filed by private vocational schools under chapters 28B.85 and 28C.10 RCW.
- (q) Records filed with the utilities and transportation commission or attorney general under RCW 80.04.095 that a court has determined are confidential under RCW 80.04.095.
- (r) Financial and commercial information and records supplied by businesses or individuals during application for loans or program services provided by chapters 43.163, 43.160, 43.330, and 43.168 RCW, or during application for economic development loans or program services provided by any local agency.
- 36 (s) Membership lists or lists of members or owners of interests of 37 units in timeshare projects, subdivisions, camping resorts,

condominiums, land developments, or common-interest communities affiliated with such projects, regulated by the department of licensing, in the files or possession of the department.

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- (t) All applications for public employment, including the names of applicants, resumes, and other related materials submitted with respect to an applicant.
- (u) The residential addresses, residential telephone numbers, personal wireless telephone numbers, personal electronic mail addresses, Social Security numbers, and emergency contact information of employees or volunteers of a public agency, and the names, dates of birth, residential addresses, residential telephone numbers, personal wireless telephone numbers, personal electronic mail addresses, Social Security numbers, and emergency contact information of dependents of employees or volunteers of a public agency, which are held by any public agency in personnel records, public employment related records, or volunteer rosters, or are included in any mailing list of employees or volunteers of any public agency. For purposes of this subsection, "employees" includes independent provider home care workers as defined in RCW 74.39A.240.
- (v) The residential addresses and residential telephone numbers of the customers of a public utility contained in the records or lists held by the public utility of which they are customers, except that this information may be released to the division of child support or the agency or firm providing child support enforcement for another state under Title IV-D of the federal social security act, for the establishment, enforcement, or modification of a support order.
- (w)(i) The federal social security number of individuals governed under chapter 18.130 RCW maintained in the files of the department of health, except this exemption does not apply to requests made directly to the department from federal, state, and local agencies of government, and national and state licensing, credentialing, investigatory, disciplinary, and examination organizations; (ii) the current residential address and current residential telephone number of a health care provider governed under chapter 18.130 RCW maintained in the files of the department, if the provider requests that this information be withheld from public inspection and copying, and provides to the department an accurate alternate or business address and business telephone number. On or after January 1, 1995, the

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- 1 current residential address and residential telephone number of a
- 2 health care provider governed under RCW 18.130.040 maintained in the
- 3 files of the department shall automatically be withheld from public
- 4 inspection and copying unless the provider specifically requests the
- 5 information be released, and except as provided for under RCW
- 6 42.17.260(9).

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- 7 (x) Information obtained by the board of pharmacy as provided in 8 RCW 69.45.090.
- 9 (y) Information obtained by the board of pharmacy or the department 10 of health and its representatives as provided in RCW 69.41.044, 11 69.41.280, and 18.64.420.
- 12 (z) Financial information, business plans, examination reports, and 13 any information produced or obtained in evaluating or examining a 14 business and industrial development corporation organized or seeking 15 certification under chapter 31.24 RCW.
  - (aa) Financial and commercial information supplied to the state investment board by any person when the information relates to the investment of public trust or retirement funds and when disclosure would result in loss to such funds or in private loss to the providers of this information.
  - (bb) Financial and valuable trade information under RCW 51.36.120.
    - (cc) Client records maintained by an agency that is a domestic violence program as defined in RCW 70.123.020 or 70.123.075 or a rape crisis center as defined in RCW 70.125.030.
    - (dd) Information that identifies a person who, while an agency employee: (i) Seeks advice, under an informal process established by the employing agency, in order to ascertain his or her rights in connection with a possible unfair practice under chapter 49.60 RCW against the person; and (ii) requests his or her identity or any identifying information not be disclosed.
- 31 (ee) Investigative records compiled by an employing agency 32 conducting a current investigation of a possible unfair practice under 33 chapter 49.60 RCW or of a possible violation of other federal, state, 34 or local laws prohibiting discrimination in employment.
- 35 (ff) Business related information protected from public inspection 36 and copying under RCW 15.86.110.
- 37 (gg) Financial, commercial, operations, and technical and research

information and data submitted to or obtained by the clean Washington center in applications for, or delivery of, program services under chapter 70.95H RCW.

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- (hh) Information and documents created specifically for, and collected and maintained by, a quality improvement committee pursuant to RCW 43.70.510 or 70.41.200, by a peer review committee under RCW 4.24.250, or by a quality assurance committee pursuant to RCW 74.42.640 or 18.20.390, regardless of which agency is in possession of the information and documents.
- 10 (ii) Personal information in files maintained in a data base 11 created under RCW 43.07.360.
  - (jj) Financial and commercial information requested by the public stadium authority from any person or organization that leases or uses the stadium and exhibition center as defined in RCW 36.102.010.
  - (kk) Names of individuals residing in emergency or transitional housing that are furnished to the department of revenue or a county assessor in order to substantiate a claim for property tax exemption under RCW 84.36.043.
  - (11) The names, residential addresses, residential telephone numbers, and other individually identifiable records held by an agency in relation to a vanpool, carpool, or other ride-sharing program or service. However, these records may be disclosed to other persons who apply for ride-matching services and who need that information in order to identify potential riders or drivers with whom to share rides.
  - (mm) The personally identifying information of current or former participants or applicants in a paratransit or other transit service operated for the benefit of persons with disabilities or elderly persons.
  - (nn) The personally identifying information of persons who acquire and use transit passes and other fare payment media including, but not limited to, stored value smart cards and magnetic strip cards, except that an agency may disclose this information to a person, employer, educational institution, or other entity that is responsible, in whole or in part, for payment of the cost of acquiring or using a transit pass or other fare payment media, or to the news media when reporting on public transportation or public safety. This information may also be disclosed at the agency's discretion to governmental agencies or groups concerned with public transportation or public safety.

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- (00) Proprietary financial and commercial information that the submitting entity, with review by the department of specifically identifies at the time it is submitted and that is provided to or obtained by the department of health in connection with an application for, or the supervision of, an antitrust exemption sought by the submitting entity under RCW 43.72.310. If a request for such information is received, the submitting entity must be notified of the request. Within ten business days of receipt of the notice, the submitting entity shall provide a written statement of the continuing need for confidentiality, which shall be provided to the requester. Upon receipt of such notice, the department of health shall continue to treat information designated under this section as exempt from disclosure. If the requester initiates an action to compel disclosure under this chapter, the submitting entity must be joined as a party to demonstrate the continuing need for confidentiality.
  - (pp) Records maintained by the board of industrial insurance appeals that are related to appeals of crime victims' compensation claims filed with the board under RCW 7.68.110.
  - (qq) Financial and commercial information supplied by or on behalf of a person, firm, corporation, or entity under chapter 28B.95 RCW relating to the purchase or sale of tuition units and contracts for the purchase of multiple tuition units.
  - (rr) Any records of investigative reports prepared by any state, county, municipal, or other law enforcement agency pertaining to sex offenses contained in chapter 9A.44 RCW or sexually violent offenses as defined in RCW 71.09.020, which have been transferred to the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs for permanent electronic retention and retrieval pursuant to RCW 40.14.070(2)(b).
  - (ss) Credit card numbers, debit card numbers, electronic check numbers, card expiration dates, or bank or other financial account numbers, except when disclosure is expressly required by or governed by other law.
  - (tt) Financial information, including but not limited to account numbers and values, and other identification numbers supplied by or on behalf of a person, firm, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or other entity related to an application for a horse racing license submitted pursuant to RCW 67.16.260(1)(b), liquor license, gambling license, or lottery retail license.

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(uu) Records maintained by the employment security department and subject to chapter 50.13 RCW if provided to another individual or organization for operational, research, or evaluation purposes.

- (vv) Individually identifiable information received by the work force training and education coordinating board for research or evaluation purposes.
- (ww) Those portions of records assembled, prepared, or maintained to prevent, mitigate, or respond to criminal terrorist acts, which are acts that significantly disrupt the conduct of government or of the general civilian population of the state or the United States and that manifest an extreme indifference to human life, the public disclosure of which would have a substantial likelihood of threatening public safety, consisting of:
- (i) Specific and unique vulnerability assessments or specific and unique response or deployment plans, including compiled underlying data collected in preparation of or essential to the assessments, or to the response or deployment plans; and
- (ii) Records not subject to public disclosure under federal law that are shared by federal or international agencies, and information prepared from national security briefings provided to state or local government officials related to domestic preparedness for acts of terrorism.
- (xx) Commercial fishing catch data from logbooks required to be provided to the department of fish and wildlife under RCW 77.12.047, when the data identifies specific catch location, timing, or methodology and the release of which would result in unfair competitive disadvantage to the commercial fisher providing the catch data. However, this information may be released to government agencies concerned with the management of fish and wildlife resources.
- (yy) Sensitive wildlife data obtained by the department of fish and wildlife. However, sensitive wildlife data may be released to government agencies concerned with the management of fish and wildlife resources. Sensitive wildlife data includes:
- (i) The nesting sites or specific locations of endangered species designated under RCW 77.12.020, or threatened or sensitive species classified by rule of the department of fish and wildlife;
- (ii) Radio frequencies used in, or locational data generated by, telemetry studies; or

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1 (iii) Other location data that could compromise the viability of a 2 specific fish or wildlife population, and where at least one of the 3 following criteria are met:

- (A) The species has a known commercial or black market value;
- (B) There is a history of malicious take of that species; or
- (C) There is a known demand to visit, take, or disturb, and the species behavior or ecology renders it especially vulnerable or the species has an extremely limited distribution and concentration.
- (zz) The personally identifying information of persons who acquire recreational licenses under RCW 77.32.010 or commercial licenses under chapter 77.65 or 77.70 RCW, except name, address of contact used by the department, and type of license, endorsement, or tag. However, the department of fish and wildlife may disclose personally identifying information to:
- 15 (i) Government agencies concerned with the management of fish and 16 wildlife resources;
- (ii) The department of social and health services, child support division, and to the department of licensing in order to implement RCW 77.32.014 and 46.20.291; and
- 20 (iii) Law enforcement agencies for the purpose of firearm 21 possession enforcement under RCW 9.41.040.
  - (aaa)(i) Discharge papers of a veteran of the armed forces of the United States filed at the office of the county auditor before July 1, 2002, that have not been commingled with other recorded documents. These records will be available only to the veteran, the veteran's next of kin, a deceased veteran's properly appointed personal representative or executor, a person holding that veteran's general power of attorney, or to anyone else designated in writing by that veteran to receive the records.
  - (ii) Discharge papers of a veteran of the armed forces of the United States filed at the office of the county auditor before July 1, 2002, that have been commingled with other records, if the veteran has recorded a "request for exemption from public disclosure of discharge papers" with the county auditor. If such a request has been recorded, these records may be released only to the veteran filing the papers, the veteran's next of kin, a deceased veteran's properly appointed personal representative or executor, a person holding the veteran's

general power of attorney, or anyone else designated in writing by the veteran to receive the records.

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- (iii) Discharge papers of a veteran filed at the office of the county auditor after June 30, 2002, are not public records, but will be available only to the veteran, the veteran's next of kin, a deceased veteran's properly appointed personal representative or executor, a person holding the veteran's general power of attorney, or anyone else designated in writing by the veteran to receive the records.
- 9 (iv) For the purposes of this subsection (1)(aaa), next of kin of 10 deceased veterans have the same rights to full access to the record. 11 Next of kin are the veteran's widow or widower who has not remarried, 12 son, daughter, father, mother, brother, and sister.
  - (bbb) Those portions of records containing specific and unique vulnerability assessments or specific and unique emergency and escape response plans at a city, county, or state adult or juvenile correctional facility, the public disclosure of which would have a substantial likelihood of threatening the security of a city, county, or state adult or juvenile correctional facility or any individual's safety.
  - (ccc) Information compiled by school districts or schools in the development of their comprehensive safe school plans pursuant to RCW 28A.320.125, to the extent that they identify specific vulnerabilities of school districts and each individual school.
  - (ddd) Information regarding the infrastructure and security of computer and telecommunications networks, consisting of security passwords, security access codes and programs, access codes for secure software applications, security and service recovery plans, security risk assessments, and security test results to the extent that they identify specific system vulnerabilities.
  - (eee) Information obtained and exempted or withheld from public inspection by the health care authority under RCW 41.05.026, whether retained by the authority, transferred to another state purchased health care program by the authority, or transferred by the authority to a technical review committee created to facilitate the development, acquisition, or implementation of state purchased health care under chapter 41.05 RCW.
- 37 (fff) Proprietary data, trade secrets, or other information that 38 relates to: (i) A vendor's unique methods of conducting business; (ii)

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data unique to the product or services of the vendor; or (iii) determining prices or rates to be charged for services, submitted by any vendor to the department of social and health services for purposes of the development, acquisition, or implementation of state purchased health care as defined in RCW 41.05.011.

(ggg) The personally identifying information of persons who acquire and use transponders or other technology to facilitate payment of tolls. This information may be disclosed in aggregate form as long as the data does not contain any personally identifying information. For these purposes aggregate data may include the census tract of the account holder as long as any individual personally identifying information is not released. Personally identifying information may be released to law enforcement agencies only for toll enforcement purposes. Personally identifying information may be released to law enforcement agencies for other purposes only if the request is accompanied by a court order.

(hhh) Financial, commercial, operations, and technical and research information and data submitted to or obtained by the life sciences discovery fund authority in applications for, or delivery of, grants under chapter 43.350 RCW, to the extent that such information, if revealed, would reasonably be expected to result in private loss to the providers of this information.

- (iii) Records of mediation communications that are privileged under chapter 7.07 RCW.
  - (jjj) All office records and files collected by the office of manufactured housing within the department of community, trade, and economic development, pursuant to the office of manufactured housing's ombudsman complaint resolution program under chapter 59.-- RCW (sections 1 through 5 of this act) and RCW 59.20.250, which contain identifying or personal information about the complainant or respondent.
  - (2) Except for information described in subsection (1)(c)(i) of this section and confidential income data exempted from public inspection pursuant to RCW 84.40.020, the exemptions of this section are inapplicable to the extent that information, the disclosure of which would violate personal privacy or vital governmental interests, can be deleted from the specific records sought. No exemption may be

construed to permit the nondisclosure of statistical information not descriptive of any readily identifiable person or persons.

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- (3) Inspection or copying of any specific records exempt under the provisions of this section may be permitted if the superior court in the county in which the record is maintained finds, after a hearing with notice thereof to every person in interest and the agency, that the exemption of such records is clearly unnecessary to protect any individual's right of privacy or any vital governmental function.
- 9 (4) Agency responses refusing, in whole or in part, inspection of 10 any public record shall include a statement of the specific exemption 11 authorizing the withholding of the record (or part) and a brief 12 explanation of how the exemption applies to the record withheld.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. Sections 1 through 5 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 59 RCW.
- NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Section 7 of this act takes effect July 1, 2006.
- 17 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 11.** Section 8 of this act expires July 1, 2006.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 12. Except for section 7 of this act, this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately.

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